

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1547

Introduced by Assembly Member Beall

February 23, 2007

An act to add Section 782.5 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to juveniles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1547, as introduced, Beall. Juvenile court: termination of jurisdiction.

Existing law authorizes a judge of the juvenile court in which a petition to adjudge a child a ward of the court has been filed, at any time before the minor reaches 21 years of age, to dismiss the petition or set aside the findings and dismiss the petition if the court finds that the interests of justice and the welfare of the minor require dismissal, or if it finds that the minor is not in need of treatment or rehabilitation.

This bill would authorize the juvenile court, at any hearing to terminate jurisdiction over a ward of the court who is 18 years of age or older, to order the probation officer to ensure that the ward is present in court, as specified, and to submit a report verifying that certain information, documents, and services have been provided to the ward. By requiring local probation officials to comply with these new duties, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The bill would require the Judicial Council to develop and implement standards, and develop and adopt appropriate forms, as necessary to implement these provisions.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 782.5 is added to the Welfare and
2 Institutions Code, to read:

3 782.5. (a) The Legislature hereby finds that some children
4 under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court have inadequate family
5 and other support systems awaiting them upon emancipation. In
6 particular, children residing in foster homes and group homes often
7 have few adults they can turn to upon emancipation.

8 (b) At any hearing to terminate jurisdiction over a ward of the
9 juvenile court who is 18 years of age or older, the court may order
10 the probation officer to do the following:

11 (1) Ensure that the ward is present in court, unless the ward
12 does not want to appear in court, or document efforts by the
13 probation department to locate the ward if the ward is not available.

14 (2) Submit a report verifying that the following information,
15 documents, and services have been provided to the ward:

16 (A) Written information concerning the ward's delinquency
17 case, including his or her family history and placement history,
18 the whereabouts of any siblings under the jurisdiction of the
19 juvenile court, unless the court determines that sibling contact
20 would jeopardize the safety or welfare of the sibling, directions
21 on how to access the documents the ward is entitled to inspect
22 under Section 827, and the date on which the jurisdiction of the
23 juvenile court will be terminated.

24 (B) Social security card, certified birth certificate, health and
25 education summary as described in subdivision (a) of Section
26 16010, identification card as described in Section 13000 of the
27 Vehicle Code, death certificate of parent or parents, and proof of
28 citizenship or residence, as applicable.

29 (C) Assistance in completing an application for Medi-Cal or
30 obtaining other health insurance, referral to transitional housing,

1 if available, or assistance in securing other housing, and assistance
2 in obtaining employment or other financial support.

3 (D) Assistance in applying for admission to college, a vocational
4 training program, or other educational institution, and in obtaining
5 financial aid, if appropriate.

6 (E) Assistance in maintaining relationships with individuals
7 who are important to a ward who has been in out-of-home
8 placement in a group home for six months or longer from the date
9 he or she was made a ward of the court, based on the ward's best
10 interests.

11 (c) The Judicial Council shall develop and implement standards,
12 and develop and adopt appropriate forms, as necessary to
13 implement this section.

14 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
15 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
16 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
17 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
18 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.